

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for selecting a wireless serving node, comprising:

5 receiving a wireless registration request at a wireless serving node;

determining whether the serving node is managing a wireless session associated with the registration request;

10 generating a wireless session inquiry for a group of associated wireless serving nodes if the serving node is not managing a wireless session associated with the registration request;

receiving a wireless session response containing a serving node identifier; and

15 generating a wireless registration response containing the serving node identifier.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

20 determining whether the registration request is associated with an active wireless session; and

initiating the establishment of a wireless session if the registration request is not associated with an active wireless session.

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3. The method of Claim 2, wherein determining whether the registration request is associated with an active wireless session comprises examining a Mobility Event Indication in the registration request.

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4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising
generating a wireless registration response indicating
acceptance of the registration request if the serving
node is managing a wireless session associated with the
5 registration request.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
determining the time elapsed since generating the
wireless session inquiry; and
10 initiating the establishment of a wireless session
if a predetermined amount of time has elapsed.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the wireless
registration request comprises an All-Registration
15 Request.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining
whether the serving node is managing a wireless session
associated with the registration request comprises
20 searching a table containing information regarding
wireless sessions being managed by the serving node.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of
the wireless session inquiry and the wireless session
25 response comprise a multicast message.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the wireless session inquiry comprises an International Mobile Subscriber Identifier and an Access Network Identifier.

- 5 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the registration response containing the serving node identifier comprises a wireless registration response indicating denial of the registration request.

11. A system for selecting a wireless serving node,
comprising:

means for receiving a wireless registration request
at a wireless serving node;

5 means for determining whether the serving node is
managing a wireless session associated with the
registration request;

means for generating a wireless session inquiry for
a group of associated wireless serving nodes if the
10 serving node is not managing a wireless session
associated with the registration request;

means for receiving a wireless session response
containing a serving node identifier; and

means for generating a wireless registration
15 response containing the serving node identifier.

12. The system of Claim 11, further comprising:

means for determining whether the registration
request is associated with an active wireless session;
20 and

means for initiating the establishment of a wireless
session if the registration request is not associated
with an active wireless session.

25 13. The system of Claim 12, wherein determining
whether the registration request is associated with an
active wireless session comprises examining a Mobile
Event Identifier in the registration request.

14. The system of Claim 11, further comprising
means for generating a wireless registration response
indicating acceptance of the registration request if the
serving node is managing a wireless session associated
5 with the registration request.

15. The system of Claim 11, further comprising:
means for determining the time elapsed since
generating the wireless session inquiry; and
10 means for initiating the establishment of a wireless
session if a predetermined amount of time has elapsed.

16. The system of Claim 11, wherein the wireless
registration request comprises an All-Registration
15 Request.

17. The system of Claim 11, further comprising
means for storing information regarding wireless sessions
being managed by the serving node, wherein determining
20 whether the serving node is managing a wireless session
associated with the registration request comprises
searching the means.

18. The system of Claim 11, wherein at least one of
25 the wireless session inquiry and the wireless session
response comprise a multicast message.

19. The system of Claim 11, wherein the wireless session inquiry comprises an International Mobile Subscriber Identifier and an Access Network Identifier.

- 5 20. The system of Claim 11, wherein the registration response containing the serving node identifier comprises a wireless registration response indicating denial of the registration request.

21. A set of logic for selecting a wireless serving node, the logic encoded in media and operable to:

receive a wireless registration request at a wireless serving node;

5 determine whether the serving node is managing a wireless session associated with the registration request;

generate a wireless session inquiry for a group of associated wireless serving nodes if the serving node is
10 not managing a wireless session associated with the registration request;

receive a wireless session response containing a serving node identifier; and

generate a wireless registration response containing
15 the serving node identifier.

22. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to:

determine whether the registration request is
20 associated with an active wireless session; and

initiate the establishment of a wireless session if the registration request is not associated with an active wireless session.

23. The logic of Claim 22, wherein determining whether the registration request is associated with an active wireless session comprises examining a Mobile Event Identifier in the registration request.

24. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to generate a wireless registration response indicating acceptance of the registration request if the serving node is managing a wireless session associated with the registration request.

25. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to:

determine the time elapsed since generating the wireless session inquiry; and
initiate the establishment of a wireless session if a predetermined amount of time has elapsed.

26. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the wireless registration request comprises an All-Registration Request.

27. The logic of Claim 21, wherein determining whether the serving node is managing a wireless session associated with the registration request comprises searching a table containing information regarding wireless sessions being managed by the serving node.

28. The logic of Claim 21, wherein at least one of the wireless session inquiry and the wireless session response comprise a multicast message.

29. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the wireless session inquiry comprises an International Mobile Subscriber Identifier and an Access Network Identifier.

5 30. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the wireless registration response containing the serving node identifier comprises a wireless registration response indicating denial of the registration request.

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31. A method for selecting a wireless serving node,
comprising:

receiving, at a wireless serving node, a wireless
session inquiry from an associated wireless serving node;

5 determining whether the serving node is managing a
wireless session associated with the session inquiry;

generating a wireless session response containing an
identifier for the serving node if the serving node is
managing a wireless session associated with the session
10 inquiry.

32. The method of Claim 31, further comprising:

receiving a wireless registration request associated
with the session response; and

15 generating a wireless registration response
indicating acceptance of the registration request.

33. The method of Claim 32, wherein the
registration request comprises an All-Registration
20 Request.

34. The method of Claim 31, further comprising:

determining whether the serving node is associated
with the network from which the session inquiry
25 originated; and

generating a wireless session response containing an
identifier for the serving node only if the serving node
is associated with the network from which the session
inquiry originated.

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35. The method of Claim 34, wherein determining whether the serving node is associated with the network from which the session inquiry originated comprises examining a network identifier in the inquiry.

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36. The method of Claim 35, wherein the network identifier comprises an Access Network Identifier.

37. The method of Claim 31, wherein at least one of the session inquiry and the session response comprise a multicast message.

38. The method of Claim 31, wherein determining whether the serving node is managing a wireless session associated with the session inquiry comprises searching a table containing information regarding wireless sessions being managed by the serving node.

39. The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
determining the time elapsed since receiving the wireless session inquiry; and
generating a second wireless session inquiry if a predetermined amount of time has elapsed, the second wireless inquiry directed to a different group of serving nodes than the first wireless session inquiry.

40. The method of Claim 39, further comprising:
determining whether a wireless session response
associated with the second session inquiry has been
received; and

- 5 relaying the session response to the group of
serving nodes from which the first session inquiry
originated if the session response has been received.

41. A set of logic for selecting a serving node, the logic encoded in media and operable to:

receive a wireless session inquiry at a wireless serving node;

5 determine whether the serving node is managing a wireless session associated with the session inquiry;

generate a wireless session response containing an identifier for the serving node if the serving node is managing a wireless session associated with the session inquiry.
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42. The logic of Claim 41, wherein the logic is further operable to:

receive a wireless registration request associated with the session response; and
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generate a wireless registration response indicating acceptance of the registration request.

43. The logic of Claim 42, wherein the registration request comprises an All-Registration Request.
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44. The logic of Claim 41, wherein the logic is further operable to:

determine whether the serving node is associated with the network from which the session inquiry originated; and
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generate a wireless session response containing an identifier for the serving node only if the serving node is associated with the network from which the session inquiry originated.
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45. The logic of Claim 44, wherein determining whether the serving node is associated with the network from which the session inquiry originated comprises
5 examining a network identifier in the inquiry.

46. The logic of Claim 45, wherein the network identifier comprises an Access Network Identifier.

10 47. The logic of Claim 41, wherein at least one of the session inquiry and the session response comprise a multicast message.

15 48. The logic of Claim 41, wherein determining whether the serving node is managing a wireless session associated with the session inquiry comprises searching a table containing information regarding wireless sessions being managed by the serving node.

20 49. The logic of Claim 41, wherein the logic is further operable to:

determine the time elapsed since receiving the wireless session inquiry; and

25 generate a second wireless session inquiry if a predetermined amount of time has elapsed, the second wireless inquiry directed to a different group of serving nodes than the first wireless session inquiry.

50. The logic of Claim 49, wherein the logic is further operable to:

determine whether a wireless session response associated with the second session inquiry has been
5 received; and

relay the session response to the group of serving nodes from which the first session inquiry originated if the session response has been received.

51. A method for selecting a wireless serving node, comprising:

detecting the presence of a mobile unit at a wireless packet control function;

5 determining an identifier for a wireless serving node that could potentially service the mobile unit;

generating a wireless registration request containing the identifier;

receiving a wireless registration response;

10 determining whether the registration response indicates that the registration request is accepted;

determining whether the registration response contains a wireless serving node identifier if the registration response does not indicate that the registration request is accepted; and

15 generating, if the registration response does not indicate that the registration request is accepted and contains a wireless serving node identifier, a wireless registration request containing the identifier.

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52. The method of Claim 51, wherein determining an identifier for a wireless serving node that could potentially service the mobile unit comprises analyzing an identifier of the mobile unit.

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53. The method of Claim 51, wherein the wireless registration request comprises an All-Registration Request.

54. The method of Claim 51, further comprising generating a message regarding the wireless session if the registration request is accepted.

- 5 55. The method of Claim 51, wherein the registration response containing the wireless serving node identifier indicates that the registration request is denied.

56. A set of logic for selecting a serving node,
the logic encoded in media and operable to:

detect the presence of a mobile unit;

determine an identifier for a wireless serving node

5 that could potentially service the mobile unit;

generate a wireless registration request containing
the identifier;

receive a wireless registration response;

determine whether the registration response

10 indicates that the registration request is accepted;

determine whether the registration response contains
a wireless serving node identifier if the registration
response does not indicate that the registration request
is accepted; and

15 generate, if the registration response does not
indicate that the registration request is accepted and
contains a wireless serving node identifier, a wireless
registration request containing the identifier.

20 57. The logic of Claim 56, wherein determining an
identifier for a wireless serving node that could
potentially service the mobile unit comprises analyzing
an identifier of the mobile unit.

25 58. The logic of Claim 56, wherein the wireless
registration request comprises an All-Registration
Request.

59. The logic of Claim 56, wherein the logic is further operable to generate a message regarding the wireless session if the registration request is accepted.

- 5 60. The logic of Claim 56, wherein the registration response containing the wireless serving node identifier indicates that the registration request is denied.

61. A method for selecting a wireless serving node,
comprising:

receiving an All-Registration Request at a wireless
serving node;

5 examining a Mobile Event Identifier in the
registration request to determining whether the
registration request is associated with an active
wireless session;

10 initiating the establishment of a wireless session
if the registration request is not associated with an
active wireless session;

15 searching a table containing information regarding
wireless sessions being managed by the serving node to
determine whether the serving node is managing a wireless
session associated with the registration request if the
registration request is associated with an active
wireless session;

20 generating an All-Registration Reply indicating
acceptance of the registration request if the serving
node is managing a wireless session associated with the
registration request;

25 generating a multicast message containing a wireless
session inquiry for a group of associated wireless
serving nodes if the serving node is not managing a
wireless session associated with the registration
request, the wireless session inquiry including an
International Mobile Subscriber Identifier and an Access
Network Identifier;

30 determining the time elapsed since generating the
wireless session inquiry;

initiating the establishment of a wireless session
if a predetermined amount of time has elapsed;

receiving a multicast message including a wireless
session response containing a serving node identifier;

5 generating an All-Registration Reply indicating
denial of the registration request and containing the
serving node identifier;

receiving a multicast message containing a wireless
session inquiry from an associated wireless serving node;

10 searching the table to determine whether the serving
node is managing a wireless session associated with the
session inquiry;

determining whether the serving node is associated
with the network from which the session inquiry
15 originated if the serving node is managing a wireless
session associated with the session inquiry; and

generating a wireless session response containing an
identifier for the serving node if the serving node is
managing a wireless session associated with the session
20 inquiry and if the serving node is associated with the
network from which the session inquiry originated.